

4th April, 1800.

Read the first and second time, and Committed to a Committee of the whole House on Monday next.

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to lease certain salt-springs, the property of the United States, in the territory North West of the Ohio.

1 SEC. 1. **B**E it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of
2 the United States of America, in Congress Assembled, That it shall be
3 lawful for the Secretary of the Treasury, and he is hereby required un-
4 der the direction of the President, to enter into contracts, for the lease
5 and to make leases on behalf of the United States, of any or of all
6 the salt springs and licks which have been, or may be discovered in the
7 Territory North-West of the Ohio, and which belong to the United
8 States, and also to lease therewith such portions, or quantities of land,
9 or to grant during such leases the privilege of cutting and using as much
10 timber growing on the public lands as may be necessary for the use of
11 the said springs, or licks. And the said leases shall contain such limita-
12 tions, exceptions and covenants as will tend to preserve and improve the
13 said property for the use of the United States, and also to produce a
14 present reasonable profit.

1 SEC. 2. And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for the

2 said Secretary, for the purpose of accomplishing the object of this act,
3 to employ an attorney, or agent resident in the said Territory, to enable
4 him to acquire the necessary information as to the value of the said
5 springs or licks, and of the characters of persons suitable to become te-
6 nants thereof, and whose duty it shall be to attend to the execution of
7 the covenants and stipulations contained in the said leases on behalf of
8 the tenants, and to execute all such orders and directions in the premis-
9 es as may be given by the said Secretary.

1 SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the said Secretary, shall
2 be, and is hereby authorized to make allowance to the said attorney or
3 agent as compensation for his services, of a commission upon all such
4 monies as may be yielded or arise on the said leases, not exceeding
5 per cent upon the amount thereof.

1 SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That for the purpose of procuring
2 the most advantageous terms in the said leases for the United States, it
3 shall be the duty of the said Secretary, to give at least
4 months public notice, that the said salt springs and licks are for lease;
5 and thereupon the same shall be leased to such suitable persons as may
6 offer terms most beneficial to the United States.